

Appl. No.: 09/720,569

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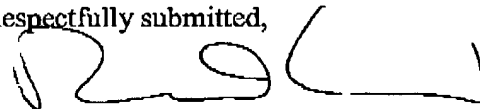
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of Claims 11-13 is acknowledged with appreciation. In this response, applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the substance of dependent claim 11, which has been cancelled. Accordingly, Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon should now be in condition for immediate allowance.

The claims as now presented are believed to clearly distinguish Applicant's invention over the cited prior art. Favorable reconsideration by the Examiner in a formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

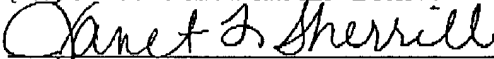


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**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9310 on the date shown below.



Janet F. Sherrill

March 3, 2004

Date